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ON PAGE 1-4

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# U.S. urges Soviet units to quit Cuba

## Kremlin warned of consequences for SALT treaty

By HENRY L. TREWHITT
*Washington Bureau of The Sun*

Washington—The administration formally urged the Soviet Union yesterday to remove its combat troops from Cuba, warning of the consequences for the SALT treaty, but received no encouragement.

For almost two hours Cyrus R. Vance, the Secretary of State, and Anatoly F. Dobrynin, the Soviet ambassador, discussed the issue at the State Department. They agreed only to meet again today or tomorrow, presumably after Mr. Dobrynin gets instructions from Moscow.

State Department officials refused to give details of the conversation, but they rejected a Moscow report denying that Soviet combat troops are in Cuba.

Referring to a report in *Pravda*, the Communist party newspaper, a spokesman said the administration position is unchanged and the *Pravda* report "is not a helpful contribution to the resolution of the problem."

One problem the administration faces is to convince the Russians that SALT, the strategic arms limitation treaty, may ride on the outcome.

American officials, and members of the Senate who will vote on the treaty to limit nuclear weapons, do take it seriously. An administration official suggested that unless the 2,000-3,000 men of the brigade are removed SALT may be voted down or fatally amended or delayed.

One of the most embarrassing aspects of the episode is the belated disclosure of the combat presence. Two weeks ago the administration acknowledged that a Soviet combat brigade, distinct from advisers to Cuba, had been on the island for four years and perhaps longer.

In the American view, the passage of time requires the U.S., instead of acquiescing, to make certain the challenge to American interests is removed.

The administration compla
to the Soviet deputy ambassador here. But Mr. Vance had delayed a formal request for negotiations until Mr. Dobrynin returned from a family visit to Moscow.

It is an old story to Mr. Dobrynin. He was the newly assigned ambassador to Washington at the time the U.S. successfully demanded the removal of offensive nuclear weapons from Cuba in 1962.

Mr. Vance has carefully emphasized that the brigade now in Cuba does not represent a crisis of the same dimensions. But he and President Carter both have described its presence as a "very serious" matter and declared the status quo to be unacceptable.

There still is no official description of the brigade's mission. But there is a near-consensus unofficially that apart from a political test of the United States it is assigned to protect a massive Soviet communications installation in Cuba.

The administration remained adamant yesterday in the face of speculation that the Soviet Union might trade the brigade's removal for the abandonment of the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. The base was established early in the century and Cuba granted permanent base rights in 1934.

It is manned by more than 2,000 Americans, most of them Navy personnel. Hodding Carter 3d, the State Department spokesman, said yesterday the base is "not negotiable."

Mr. Vance met Mr. Dobrynin yesterday afternoon after spending the morning in a closed meeting of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He was accompanied by Adm. Stansfield Turner, the director of central intelligence.

Questioned by reporters, Admiral Turner dismissed the question of an intelligence failure in the delayed identification of the combat unit. "We are proud of what we have done," he said.

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